MEW YORK MERALD, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1885.

MILITARY OPPRESSION.

THE PEOPLE SUBMIT FROM POLICY

DRISH TRADING IN COTTON.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY.

Necessity of an Early Occupation of Texas,

&e.,

Our New Orleans Correspondence. NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 23, 1864.

For the last year I have travelled quite extensively arough a large portion of Texas, where my home now is I make this statement simply with a view of correcting many false impressions which have gone forth concerning affairs there; not, however, without a hope that the formation may not be entirely lost sight of in a military point of view, inasmuch as that State is, sooner or r, to pass through the ordeal of two armies contend ing for the supremacy there. It is also due to the loyal ens of Texas to have all matters concerning their welfare placed before the public in their proper light, especially where they are looking forward so auxiously to the day of their deliverance from military oppression

The people of Texas have not experienced the blight g effects of the war to that degree which has fallen to the lot of many of the rebel States, although they have been compelled to partake of very many of the bitter fruits thereof. No large armies have laid waste their pos sions nor exhausted their means of subsistence; ye they have been sorely tried in other respects. The popu lation being sparse, and the byways and hiding places so numerous, bushwhacking and guerilla warfare, ineugu rated at the commencement of the rebellion by the rabid secessionists, has been carried on quite extensively the result is, hundreds of good, loyal men now rest in un-timely graves, and hundreds of more will share a like fate ere the war closes. But we are thankful a speedy justice has overtaken many a cowardly secessionist whill pursuing this hellish system of warfare.

MILITARY OFFRESSION.

The State is under complete military control of Jeff. Davis—more so, probably, than any other in the confederacy. The Legislature passed a law delegating all military power to that commander, or, in other words, they pealed the State Militia law, thus making every man, tween the ages of seventeen and fifty, subject to the from whom better things were expected, signed the bil But this is not all. The protection of the frontier agains the encroachments of the Indian tribes is no longer le to the management and control of the State, but to the

If the few men residing in the frontier counties If the few men residing in the frontier counties, who are exempt from conscription, can keep the savage foe back, all will be well; but those who are at all acquainted with that section of country well know that four times the number of men thus exempted from conscription could not successfully protect the frontier. Recent events transpiring there show this. Already most of the frontier counties have become depopulated. However, and families have been forced to abactor, their homes to avoid being murdered by the savages; and it will not be eing murdered by the savages; and it will not be fore San Antonio, Austin, Waco, Dallas and Sher Il become frontier towns.

But the "blossings of iiberty" secured to the people of Taxas by the rebel government do not stop here. The Tax law, and a law regulating the finances, are a part and parcel of the same budget of laws herotofore alluded to. There is the tithe tax requiring one tenth of all farm produce; an ad actorem tax of six per cent upon property of every description, and a tax of from tan to twenty-five per cent upon all incomes. These taxes, together with an increase of the State and county taxes, fall heavily upon all classes who have properly and these who attempt to do business. In addition to these tax laws, a law concerning the currency puts on the finishing touch. It was passed not quite a year ago, and enjoins that all rebel notes issued up to a certain day in March or April last shall be funded in four per cent bonds by the 1st day of January, 1865, or be taxed to their full amount. This virtual repudiation of the currency by the same body of men who created it had the effect to render it almost worthless, except in the payment of taxes. The result was that all classes refused to receive it in trade, particularly in Western Texas. The payment of taxes. The result was that all classes refused to receive it in trade, particularly in Western Texas. The strong arm of military power holds the people in subjection and overpowers all referess. But, amid all these oppressions, the loyalists in Texas are not without hope. They can distinctly see a "silver lining" to the dark cloud which overshadows them, and take courage.

They can distinctly see a "solver lining" to the dark cloud which overshadows them, and take courage.

The Rio Grande trade has flourished ever since the blockade of the ports on the Gulf. A constant shipment of cotton from every portion of the State, besides large quantities from Arkansas and Louishna, to Engle Pass, Laredo, Rio Grande City and Brownsville, has been kep! up by the speculator and the State and robel authorities for over three years. At present the robel Cotton Bureau has the exclusive control of all cotton in the State. Under the regulations of this bureau the producer or owner of cotton is required to sell one-half to the government, receiving therefor about twenty-five cents per pound in rebel money, and a permit to take the other half to the Mexican market. This trade has enabled the Trans-Mississippi Department of the rebel government to furnish medicines and clothing to the army, and the people have reaped some benefits from this trade. It as enabled them to procure coffee, demestic, prints, boots and shoes, medicines, &c.

While ap ing of this trade, it may not be out of piace to aliance to the properties of Matamoros. Every house is octopied in the city and rents are enormously high. A store which rented for a few hundred dollars only before the cotton trade commenced, now commands thousands of deliars per year. The carpenter and brick masson are busidy engaged in creeting stores in every part of the city, and so soon as they are completed they are filled with goods. The expense of hving there is from one to three dollars per year, The carpenter and brick masson are busidy engaged in creeting stores in every part of the city, and so soon as they are completed they are filled with goods. The expense of hving there is from one to three dollars per year, the expense of hving there is from one to three dollars per year. The carpenter and brick masson are busidy engaged in creeting stores in every part of the city, and so soon as they are completed they are filled with goods. The expense of h

mores and Bagdad, wonthout doubt, for it gives them all the vitality they possess.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY.

The agricultural products of Texas during the past two years have been fally equal to the demand. The crop of corn just harvested throughout Eastern Texas is immense, while the cereal grains, particularly wheat, are superior in quality, though limited in quantity. The mast is also good in all parts of the State, which will supply the inhabitants with bacon without drawing upon their corn crop to make it.

The COTTON CROP.

Cotton was planted the past season only in limited quantity, while the yield will be very meagre indeed. The cotton growers would undoubtedly have grown more of the staple had they not been interfered with. Just at the time of preparing the ground for the crop mest of their hands were ordered to work on fortifications in various parts of the State. It was also urged by the military artherities that the time policy was to plant corn and not cotton. Again, the planters were so frequently annoyed with "cotton orders" that many refused to plant cotten at all. The two previous crops of cotton were good, and they are by to means exhausted. It was the intention of the cotton growers, when I left the State, to plant extensively of this important simple the coming senson; and it will certainly be for their interest to do so; for, at present prices, they can well afford to give one-half of their crop to the government, with permits to take the other half to market.

Frevious to the war, the people of Texas were, as a general thing, and in a comparative sense, a most dependent and helpless class. Their want, which were but few, were very easily supplied, living, as they did, principally upon beef, earn bread and baron, and clad in rheap and plada apparel. It was not necessary for them to put forth much exertion to obtain a confortable substance and make a respectable appearance in society, the mild and saintrious climate in which they lived in vited indicalent halfs, and the soft, gentle breeze,

that the first notes of the war bugle found the people of Texas.

Now large quantities of leather of inferior quantity) are manufactured in the State. The Femineniary turns out woodlen and cotton cloths extensively; while other factories, both woodlen and cotton, are in operation and in progress of completion. Cotton casis, of good quality, are manufactured there. Iron works are in operation in the eastern and middle portions, while the State and rebet governments are turning out cannot, ball, powder and caps, but to what extent I am not advised. Again, travel where you may, and the hum of the spinning wheel and the click of the loom is the music that falis upon the our. From Red river to the Rio Grande, from the Gulf to the frontier, the rich as well as the poor, the white as well as the black, are laboring from morning until evening in the manufacture of "home made jeans," cotton ploth, i.e.

BURMISSION OF THE LOYAL PROPER THROUGH REASONS OF POLICY.

POLICY.

The loyal people of Texas have submitted quietly to di the laws passed by the rebel Congress on a matter of

policy. Many of them have even taken up arms and gone into the service; but I notice, as a general thing, they skedaddle the first favorable opportunity offered, and take shelter under Uncle San's protection, and hundreds, yes thousands, have made it convenient to cross over into Mexico. But a large number of Union men still remain in Texas; and it is their earnest wish that no further demonstration be made towards occupying that State by Union troops until such time as the United States government will be able to do so permanently and effectually. Banks' Red river expedition, together with the withdrawal of most of the troops from the coast, were movements well calculated to discourage and dishearten this class of the Texas population, while they "gave aid and comfort to the enemy."

When a movement is made having for its object the occupancy of Texas by a military force, that force should

Texas population, while they "gave aid and comfort to the enemy."

When a movement is made having for its object the occupancy of Texas by a military force, that force-should be not less than fifty thousand men. I am sustained in this by the expressed opinions of men who now reside in Texas, and whose judgments are entitled to the highest consideration. It is true that less than half the number of men above named could take possession of the State; but the loyal people there desire something more. They want it permanently occupied; and this cannot be accomplished with less than fifty thousand men.

IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY OCCUPATION OF TEXAS.

Texas, I conceive, occupies a very important military position at the present time. The French government has placed an Emperor on the throne of republican Mexico, and steps have already been taken to drive the Indian tribes from the State of Sonora, and invite engration thither for the purpose of developing and working the rich silver mines known to exist there. This, in itself, is, perhapa, well enough; but where are these wild tribes of Indians to dee to? There is no place for them in Mexico; and the most natural conclusion to arrive at is, that they will overrun Western Texas and Arizona. To prevent this, a strong military force will be necessary. It is also stated that one of the objects of inviting emigration to Sonora is to establish a new republic on the Pacific.

I trust that the occupancy of Texas by Union troops

Pacific.

I trust that the occupancy of Texas by Union troops may be done at the earliest possible day, so that the thousands of refugees from that State may once more return to their homes, and, in co-operation with the Union men, restore the State to the federal government and establish military posts along the boundary line between Mexico and Texas and Arizona, to prevent encreachnents.

## RICHMOND.

The Press Despatch.

Washington, Jan. 8, 1865.

A latter from the Army of the James, dated Friday. mys:—All is quiet in the Department. A severe rai storm has prevailed all day, making the roads almost

Mr. William H. Merriam's Desputch IN FRONT OF RICHMOND, Jan. 1, 1865.

STATEMENT OF A RELEASED SURGEON. Yesterday Surgeon E. L. Carrick, Medical Director of General Gillem's division of General Stoneman's com-mand, arrived at these headquarters direct from Rich-Dr. Carrick was captured on the 24th of Decem ber, 1864, at Marion, in West Virginia, where he was in charge of a hospital. Upon his capture he was imme terday morning, when he was released and sent through the rebel lines by command of Colonel Ould, rebel Com missioner for Exchange, arriving at these headquarter yesterday evening. He reports that our prisoners are badly in need of clothing and blankets, and suffering more from cold than hunger. Dr. Carrick states that he was very much surprised to find our prisoners in the hos-pital so well cared for. He confirms the previous reports of the widespread distress prevailing in Richmond nevertheless, his own astonishment was unexampled that the rebels did not rob him of his clothes, watch and boots, though they did surreptitionsly remove his horse. Dr. Carrick goes hence this morning to rejoin his command in Tennessee.

Within a few hours Captain J. H. Nutting, Adjutant P. W. McManus and Licutenant W. S. Davis, of the Twenty seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, captured on the 18th of May last, near Drury's bluff—when, it will be remem seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, captured on the 18th of May last, near Drury's bluff—when, it will be romounbered, the gallant Heckman and his brigade fell into the hands of the enemy only after the most desperate resistance—have arrived at these headquarters, from Columbia, South Carolina. These officers, among other vicisitudes, were among the officers placed under fire in Charleston. On the 29th of November they escaped from the prison camp at Columbia. The manner of their escape it is not thought proper to make public at this time. After great suffering and privation they reached the Attantic coast, and joined one of the gunboats of our Stouth Atlantic blockading squadron, on board of which they experienced the most gratifying kindness and attention. All along the route of their escape the negroes proved eminently trusty and useful. During the journey, one night, these loyal officers arrived at the lowly cabin of an aged negro woman and her son, wet tired and famished. The old lady, after hearing their touching story, drying their clothes, and satisfying their though give the son to take them across the adjoining ferry and set them well on their way to their destination, charging him to so direct their as to avoid all possibility of mistake; and as they departed she fell upon her knees and uttered a ferrent prayer for the success of their perilous journey.

WHERMADUTES OF CAPTAIN SAMEL PIRROR.

The above named officers state that the gallant Captain Samuel Fierce, of the Third New York eavily, captured on Wilson's raid on the Weldon railroad last summer, has escaped from the enemy for the fourth time—having made three prior unsuccessful attempts. When the officers left Capt. Pierce was still at large. It will pratify him to icam upon his arrival within our lines—if such good fortune awaits him—that he has been promoted to be lieutenant colonel of his noble regiment.

It is not improper to state that Major General Godfrey.

be lieutenant colonal of his noble regiment.

In impariture of Major General Weitzel, And Staff for Cincinnation.

It is not improper to state that Major General Godfrey Weitzel, commanding Twenty-fifth corps, has been granted thirty days' leave of absence. He leaves here for Cincinnati. The General is about to be married to a young lady resident in that city. Captains Graves and Fitch, of his personal staff, accompany the General Major General Graves and Fitch, of his personal staff, accompany the General Major General Graves and Fitch of his personal staff, accompany the General Major General Graves and Fitch of his personal staff, accompany the General Major General Graves at Notfolk. General Graves at Cincinnation of truce, for the use of our prisoners in that city. Colonel George S. Dodg, of Major General Entier's staff, was the flag of truce officer. More blankets will go up in a few days.

SECK IT LUMY PRISON BOSPITAL, RICHMOND.

I append a list of United States prisoners of war in Libby Frison Hospital, Richmond:—

Colonel H. S. Harnson, 39th Kentucky.

Lieut. Colonel R. M. Strong, 19th Wisconsin.

Capt. W. H. Chambers, atsamer Smith Eriggs.

Lieut. G. J. Keyser. 195th Pennsylvania.

Lieut. J. S. Hopenberg, 4th New York cavalry.

Engianer P. D. Edwards, steamer Smith Briggs.

Capt. J. A. Caho, 8th Indiana.

Lieut. H. F. Brewster, 5th United States artillery.

Capt. James Bagle, 1st Fennsylvania avalry.

Lieut. J. O. Wheeler, 1st Vermont

Lieut. J. O. Wheeler, 1st Vermont cavalry.

Lieut. J. O. Duf, 36th Massachusetts.

Capt. G. W. Khhmer, 14th Pennsylvania.

Jan. Gillis, Assistant Quartermaster United Statos army.

Capt. J. C. Barty, 19th Wisconstin.

Lieut. J. O. Lard, 6th New York.

Lieut. J. C. Barty, 19th Pennsylvania.

The Street Cleaners and the Citizens

Mr. Hecker and the Citizens' Association, alermed probably, by the distress occasioned through their action in restraining the pay of the sweepers and cartmen an the certainty before them of a most filthy city in a brief space of time, have become sufficiently mollified, and have so far receded from their first intentions as to sgree to an adjustment with such of the claimants as will appear before them and make oath to the correctness of

their accounts.

The public will doubtless feel interested in a state ment of the course pursued by the City Inspector in this matter of street cleaning, the authority delegated to him, and the legality of his acts, and the undoubted right of

matter of street cleaning, the authority delegated to him, and the legality of his acts, and the undoubted right of his men to receive, at the proper periods, the full amount of their dues without the necessity of appearing before a committee of examination—the representatives of a self-constituted body, whom, it seems, are about to take upon themselves the entire duties of judges, purors, censors, inspectors, paymasters and all else to which their inclinations or prejudices may incite.

In December last Mr. Develin, Counsel to the Corporation, in obedience to a resolution of the Board of Councitmen, gave an explanation touching the street cleaning business. After citing the particulars of Hackley's remunciation of his celebrated contract, the exhaustion of the appropriation therefor, &c., Mr. Develin proceeds to state that in "this expensy the Mayor convened the Board of Health, to whom he communicated the difficulty which had arisen." "The Board thereupon adopted a resolution (see report, stated session, Board of Aldermen, September 14, 1863), directing the City Inspector to proceed with and continue the exeming of the streets." "Under this denetion the City Inspector has continued to clean and is now cleaning the streets."

Again, through legislative action at Albany has winter, no appropriation having been allowed for street eleming, except the work be done by contract, and this contract appropriation so limited in smount that after several efforts no contractor could be found willing to proceed with it, means had to be resorted to to raise the necessary funds for cleaning the streets; for the health of the city must not be destroyed, the City Inspector, as shown, to be held accountable for any neglect of duty on his part. How the money was obtained from time to time on judgments arranged against the city, Mr. Develin fully makes known. We reed not follow him further than to say that the process was strictly valid, and, though cassing delays at times, proved and follow him further than to say that the proce

by which it is plainly observable that the City Inspector is in no way consurable, and that the poor laborers under him should be paid their just dues without a moment's delay. "I have no doubt," says Mr. Develin, "of the right and duty of the City Inspector under the action and authority conferred by the Board of Health to clean the streets, until other provisior is made, or that authority revoked. Any obligations, therefore, which he necessarily incurs in the performance of this work, becomes a valid claim against the city. Such," he continues, "were the claims in the avveral actions and judgments referred to, and no dofence was interposed, for the simple reason that none existed."

## MONSTER TORPEDOES OF HISTORY.

Where and How They Have Been Em ployed-The Terpedoes of Antwerp Tripoli, Basque Roads and Wilming ton-Origin of the First Great Torpedo-The Nations Which Have Used Them-Their Success and Failure-Are the United States Destined to Revolutionize the Manner of Waging Wart &c.

The original inventor of gunpowder little conceived the vast extent to which his discovery would be applied. and as little did the musketeer of the sixteenth century roam that the few grains with which he charged hi matchlock would yet be magnified for hostile purpose into the hundreds of thousands of pounds with which the most recent and terrible engine of war was filled, for it must be acknowledged that, doubtful as was the success of the Wilmington powder-boat, its capacity for destruction was all sufficient. If torpedoes are practicable in the shape presented by General Butler's ship, war has received a curious modification; for in future victory will attend the combatant who has at his disposal the greater quantity of the explosive compound and the whole science of strategy will be reduced to the simple process of burning vast quantities of powde in the closest proximity to the enemy's fortifications and

Torpedoes, considered according to the manner of the application, arrange themselves into two classes—those which are submarine and those which are superficial. Of the first class are the numerous contrivances used by the rebels during the present war, comprising com-small charges of powder, and arranged to drift rivers and harbors. Ever since the discovery of gunpow-der machines of this kind have been employed in warfare throughout the world. The instances of the secon class, where immense quantities of powder have been used, and where results were expected as much from the concussion, or shock, as from the direct effects, are much fewer. Previous to that at Wilmington three are recorded, and it is a singular fact that the experiments have been confined to the Dutch, English and American nations, though in cans have already improved upon many projects originating in the Old World, which have been abandoned there for the want of perseverance in perfecting them or fully proving their merits and availability. Who can tell but that the present war is yet to demonstrate our capa city to surpass all nations in the art of war, as we have in the arts of peace, and that we shall introduce into martial science the most destructive of weapons.

THE TORPEDOES OF ANTWERP To an Italian engineer of Antwerp, who brought his talents into play during the sloge of that city, in 1884, is due the claim of being one of the first, if not the first, to invested the city, found himself unable to close the Scheldt to the vessels from Zealand, which were continually running the blockade with provisions and arm for his enemy, despite the batteries erected on both banks of the river. He, therefore, resolved to throw a bridge across the broad, deep and rapid part of the stream between Antwerp and Calloo. Spiles were driven into the river at certain distances, upon which a framework was laid supporting a series of block houses. Either end of the bridge was defended with fortifications on the land. The depth of the middle of the river preventing the use of piers, he was compelled to leave a gap of twelve hundred and fifty feet in the centre, which he filled with boats, placed at intervals of twenty feet, and harmly connected together with spars and cables. Senti-nel boats were stationed up and down stream, and in ad-dition the Duke anchored his men-of-war quite close to the bridge. An effectual barrier was thus opposed to the impossibility of his achieving an enterprise of such diffi-culty; but, finding their expectations delusive, and also that the bridge resisted the elements of nature, they began to east about them for some plan by which to revation in the city. The Zealand States were at the sam time preparing an expedition up the Scheldt, so that more than one object was to be attained by the destruc-tion of the bridge. An Italian engineer named Giambell was at this time in Antwerp, and had already by his science contributed a great deal to repelling the assault of the Duke. We have but few details of the manner in which he constructed his torpedo ships, all the infor mation being gathered from the results produced. Early army were amazed by the spectacle of three surface of the Scheldt presented one sheet of fire. The ountry all around was as visible as at noon. Astonish ment was quickly succeeded by consternation when one of the three machines exploded with a terrible concus sion. It had not, however, reached its destination. A second ship, tearing through the sentinei boats, struck sundered like packthread, and the woodwork shattered to atoms, and with all it supported-men, cannon and nachmery-strewn to the winds of heaven. The Mar quis of Roubais, with many other of Parma's officers and eight hundred men, perished in all varieties of deathby flood, flames or wounds. Fragments of bodies and flimbs were flong far and wide, and many soldiers perished without a vestige of the human form being left to prove that they had ever existed. The river, forced from its bed at either side, rushed into the forts and drowned numbers of their garrisons, while the ground far away shook as in an earthquake. The prince himself was struck down by a beam, and, with two of his gene

rals, stretched senseless. pedo, so far as its immediate object was concerned, re-auted most successfully. It is a matter of history well vain in the long run, and that Parma finally triumphos THE TORPEDO OF TELPOLI HARBOR.

during the war with Tripoli The enemy's cruisers were lying within the harbor, to which ingress was prohibited objective point of our war with Tripoli was to destroy these cruisers and thus put an end to their piracies in the Mediterranean. Our fleet had already been detained a long time waiting for this purpose, maintaining a pro-tracted blockade of the harbor. To destroy these vessels by means of a torpedo suddenly entered into the plans of Commodore Proble. Accordingly he selected the Intro pid, in which he had a room or magazine planked up in the hold, just forward of the mast. In this apartment he stored one hundred barrels of gunpowder. On deck, im-mediately above, he placed fifty thirteen and one-half inch shells and one hundred nine inch shells, together with cannon balls, pieces of kentledge and fragments of iron. A tube with a fuse connected with the magazine led to another spartment filled with light wood and splinters, which were intended to burn slowly and deter the enemy from boarding. It was the intention to profit by the first dark night to carry the vessel into the harbor as far as possible, to light the fire in the splinter room, and then for the crew to retreat in small boats. The duty was a most hazardous one, as it was necessary to stand in through a narrow channel in a slow sailing ship, directly in the face of hostile batteries, the fire of which was to be escaped only in the event of the enemy mis taking the vessel for a blockade runner. Its execution was entrusted to Captain Somers and Lieutenant Wadeworth, who, like Commander Rhind and Lieutenant Preston, of the Wilmington torpedo, set out with the determination that the powder should not fall into the enemy's hands, even if it cost them their own lives to avert such a contingency. The Intropid got under weigh on the tense, almost breathless silence followed her departure. Soon it was evident she had been discovered by the enemy, for their batteries were observed to fash on all sides of the channel. At length a brilliant light illumined the vast expanse of sky, coast and water. A torrent of fire atreamed into the hoavens, and was succeeded by a con-cussion that shook and rocked the fleet in the offling. explosion, the batteries ceased Their fire, a few cries resounded from the city, but soon all was quiet as the grave. Daylight came; but with it the daring crew of the Intropid were nowhere to be seen. Their fate and the full effects of the explosion are involved in mystery. The ship exploded before reaching the harbor, and hence it is supposed that her destruction took place prematurely

frigates was observed next day to be missing and two
others were being hauled ashore. Many contended that their injury was the result of the concussion; but as the explosion took place without the harbor and a very great distance off, there is a great deal of doubt upon the point. One thing is certain, however—no damage whatever was done to the missonry of the Bashaw's castle.

THE TORPEDO OF BASQUE ROADS. Five years later the English made use of a torpede in the harbor of Rochefort, wherein the French vessels had taken refuge, and where they were rendered inaccessible by a heavy boom anchored across the mouth of the nar-row channel. This boom was composed of heavy spars, lashed together with cables and secured by anchors. Admiral Dundonald (Lord Cochrane) undertook to re move this barrier by means of a powder ship, or, as it was called, an explosion boat, in contradi freships then so frequently used. Although the object was effected by a different vessel—the Mediator—which ran down the obstruction, it is interesting in the pre-sent connection to trace the history of the Admiral's project. When the signal for the advance had been given he ran in with the Imperiouse until he judged he was sufficiently near, when he went aboard the explosion brig with a lieutenant and gig's crew Having adjusted the arrangements for firing her, during which time she had approached quite close to the boom, he again entered his gig and had proceeded but a shor distance when the explosion took place. The brig had not reached the boom and no effect was produced upon it. mediately succeeding the explosion a large wave rolled out to sea and was felt at some distance. in his small boat was suddenly lowered, as he describe expected nothing less than the overwhelming of his little craft and the certain destruction of himself and crew. Of the after results of the explosion, whether it had demoralizing effect upon the French, or whether the simple removal of the boom ended all hopes of the fleet within the roads for future safety, it is difficult to deter mine the particular cause. The English in their attack were aided by the then new Congreve rockets, which with the fire ships, combined with the terrific shock from the powderbrig, inspired the French with such feat that they beached most of their vessels, while the res fell a prey to their antagonists.

sode is the view taken of Dundonald's action by many writers in the English journals of the time, who styled it an assassin's work, not fit for the hands of an English sailor. Their remarks apply more particularly to the ing and destruction of the enemy's vessels. At the same time articles appeared condemning the use of al such machines in warfare; and the terms "infernal,"
"fire devils," "catamarans," "water worms" and the
like were indiscriminately applied to all the torpedoes used during this war. The people indeed seemed to think it dishonorable to fight an enemy in any other than the

THE WILMINGTON TORPEDO. Last and greatest of all is the torpedo used in the apis so fresh in the minds of the public. The amount of powder used on this occasion exceeds any previous quantity; and, of its effects, those best authorized to speak are still in doubt—a doubt which the end of the war can only dispel. It is unnecessary here to relterate the opinion o Commander Rhind. Suffice it to say that he believes his project one perfectly capable of success, and that the end of the rebellion can be hastened by "monster torpedoes."

## THE STATE CAPITAL.

ALBANY, Jan. 6, 1805.

A New Capitol Building Wonted—Anxiety in Relation to the New Draft—The Entire State to be Taxed to Pay Volunteers—Metropolitan Police for This City and Sulurbs—Ousting of Senator Niven—The State Banks Coming Under the General Government—Comptroller Robinson Republicaded by the Leading Republicans, de. An effort is again making for the crection of a new Capitol building in this city. The first step would have been taken last session were it not for the treachery of one of the Albany delegation. The bill now about being introduced makes provision so far as securing the title to introduced makes provision so far as securing the title to the requisite real estate. The Common Council of Albany will purchase sufficient ground and donate it to the State. The site looked upon is the block known as the Congress course the owners will demand now a hundred per cent more than heretofore, because the State desires the spot for a new Capitol. The present building will probably be altered so as to fit it up for an Executive mansion, a sub-ject which has been sgitated for a quarter of a contraaltered so as to fit it up for an Executive mansion, cet which has been agitated for a quarter of a cet. Much anxiety is felt in relation to the coming Much anxiety is felt in relation to fixing the amount of boun-be paid. The operations of the last draft were une-borne. Those localities where particities, wealth be paid. The operations of the last draft were unequally borns. Those localities where particitien, wealth and activity prevailed paid liberal, and even large and exorbitant bounties, amounting in some counties to a thousand dollars per man; whereas, in other localities the money, or the disposition to ofter such heavy inducements, did not prevail; the consequence was that the thousand dollar bounties brought up volunteers and filled the quotas in such localities, and in districts where smaller bounties were offered the quotas could not be filled. The bills now before the Legislature contemplate a uniform sum throughout the State, averaging about six hundred dollars per man. Complaints are made in localities where the town quotas have been promptly filled, that those districts remaining behind should not be compelled to fill up the last draft before neither call should be made upon those which had fully and eccapited with the previous requisitions of the government. The standard adopted by the New York city recruiting committee, of paring one thousand dollars, will not be adopted in the bill before the Legislature. It is more than the necessary from the rural districts are willing to allow. They will insert the sum of six handred dollars for three years men. This they say will produce fairness and equality throughout the State, and prevent, for instance, volunteers residing in St. Lawrence county, where the bounty is smaller than in New York from going to the latter place and emisting on account of larger bounties. The Legislature will pass a hav, a concern one, levying a tax upon all property in the State, the same as other taxes are levied, to rabe money to pay bounties, and authorize the State Comptroller to bornew the money in anticipation. This will relieve the New York Septer-tions from a great amount of labor and the city from much expense.

We are to have a Gentral Metropolitian Police here, ombrache the limits and the later place and emissing on account of inspections for the severe belied to promitent be paid. These localities where patrictism, wealth and activity prevailed paid liberal, and even large and exor-binat bountles, amounting in some counties to a thousand

the Sentie seem disposed to let his competitor finish out this session. The next election shey can enter the lists again if they choose.

The exemption of national bonk capital from taxation is a matter of grave consideration among the country benkers doing business under our State laws. Those institutions are now made to contribute their just proportion to the support of the State government, which is very considerable under the present very extraordinary public expenses incident to the war. They may all be very patriotic in their way; but, they argue, if they can be relieved from taxation by closing up under the State laws, and opening under the general government, thereby saving from three to five per cent yearly, it will be an object for them to make the change. A bill was passed through both branches of the Legislature during the last session calculated to facilitate the changing of the system; but it met the veto of the Governor. From a paragraph in Governor Fenton's message it is apparent that he will superour Fenton's message it is apparent that he will approve of the measure; when it is presumed many banks will make the change, and thereby save the taxation of four or five per cent, which can then be divised among the stockholders.

The difficulty between the Journal and Comptroller Rolinson is deep seated, and can never be adjusted or compronized. It arose in the first instance on account of the action of the Comptroller, some three years since, when he refused to recognize that paper as the organ through which legal notices were required by law to be promulgated. His action, together with most of his coming out for Fremon, and finally voting for McClellan, had also a damaging effect with the republican party. At the last State Convention of the democracy a long portion of the delegates stood ready, in case of Seymour's declension, to vote Mr. Robinson on their State ticket. So you see, that, however safe and trust worthy he may be as a public effect his connection with the republican party, though ol

Court of Appeals.

The following is the calendar of the Court of Appeals for Monday, January 9, 1865;—Nos. 39, 40, 41, 42, 4254; 44, 45, 47, 43 and 50.

There is no session of the court this afternoon, which has adjourned until half-past nine o'clock Monday moraing.

Court Calendar—This Day.

SCHREME COURT—Cracer.—Part 1.—Court opens at eleven o'clock A. M. Nos. 993, 53, 87, 129, 205, 321, 351, 355, 367, 381, 419, 455, 457, 458, 476, 497, 513, 517, 519, 527. Part 2.—Court opens at ten o'clock A. M. Nos. 678, 480, 972, 846, 946, 572, 004, 644, 748, 902, 1258, 670, 674, 682, 688, 690, 694, 700, 708, 712. Part 3.—No. 75 Duane street. Court opens at ten o'clock A. M. Case on. No calendar.

## NEWBERN.

Additional Details of the Expedition Up Roanoke River.

THE FLEET REACHED POPLAR POINT, &c., &c.

Our Newbern (N. C.) Correspondence.

The expedition that left Plymouth, N. C., on the 9th instant has returned, and anchored off Jamesville, Roan-oke river, having by arduous labor accomplished results that reflect great credit upon its commanding officer and ORGANIZATION OF THE REPROPTION

The naval portion of this expedition sailed from Plymouth on the evening of the 9th instant, in the following

order:—Wyalusing, Commander Earl English, bearing the broad pennant of Commodore W. H. Macomb, commanding the Fourth division of the North Atlantic fleet; Chicopee, Commander Hannell; Valley City, Acting Master Brooks; steamer Belle, Acting Master Green; picket launch No. 5, Acting Ensign Chapman; the illfated Otsego, Commander Arnold, and the steamer Bazley, Acting Ensign Ames, and the Shamrock was to

A land force, Colonel Frankle commanding, had started from Plymouth at daylight the same morning to co

operate with the fleet. THE OTSEGO DESTROYED BY A TORPEDO

Without interruption the squadron, at ten o'cle same night, arrived off Jamesville, a small town above Plymouth some twelve miles, when the signal to anchor was made from the flagship. The night was dark, and the river flowing rapidly in its narrow and tortuous channel t was thought best to proceed no further until daylight The Wyalusing had just let go her anchor a few yards above the town, when two loud reports were heard een to envelop the Otsego. That fine vessel had struck two torpedoes; one under the port coal bunker, the other beneath the keelson, driving a large hole through her bottom, and throwing one of her hundred-pounder rifled Parrotts into the air. She sank in fifteen minutes in about three fathoms of water being a complete wreck Her officers and men lost all their clothing, except what they had on at the moment of the explosion, but were cared for by their comrades of the other vessels, who hurried to their rescue, and perilled their own lives in saving their shipwrecked fellow sailors. Commande Arnold behaved with great coolness, and his self-posses sion soon restored order and discipline on board the sunken ship, or at least on her hurricane deck, which

DESTRUCTION OF THE BAZELEY In the morning orders were given to drag for torped when it was found that the Otsego had struck upon a por fect nest of them. The boats which had been passing rowed over numbers of them, happily without touching them. Several were picked up alongside of the Otsego and two were found hanging to the torpedo fender, rigged at her bow. The steamer Bazeley, during the morning, was ordered the run down to Plymouth, to cavey orders and despatches, taking on board for that purpose Paymaster Louis Bands, of the Shamrock, who had been detailed as one of the Commodore's aids in this expedition. On her way down, being directed to communicate with the Obsego, Captain Ames ran towards the sunken ship, when a torpedo-struck the Bazeley under her cabin, blowing a hole clear through her, killing William C. Rossell, lad, and John Gerrard, first class boy, and sinking the ship instantly. The officers and the remainder of the crew escaped by swimming, and were picked up by boats. Captain Ames sates to his vessel to the last minute, and upon returning to the flagship, thus laconically reported his loss to Commedere Macomb:—"Sir, the Bazeley has gone up." and two were found hanging to the torpedo fender, rigger

his loss to Commedere Macounb:—"Sir, the Bazeley has gone up."

The destruction of two of our vessels so quickly made things look blue, but the grit and metal that headed the expedition was sufficient to overcome such disasters.

A FRENCE START.

Preparations were now fully carried out to drng the river by hoats for the torpedoss, which were constantly found in the richast and choicest clusters, in some places although the interest of the most sensitive nature, "going off" on the sightest provocation. Communications with Plymouth having been obtained, the signal was again made to advance, the Valley City taking the lead.

The fleet anchored off several of the large plantations along the river, and the men were allowed to regale themselves with fresh provisions and other luxurious.

The pleasure of Napoleon's visitors at Compiegre was the provisions and other luxurious.

mayal officers, and though many of them are far from wealthy, their honor and good name is more precious in their eyes than millions of dishonorable wealth.

The OPERATIONA OF THE ARMY.

It was part of the programme that CO. Frankle should communicate with the fleet at Jemesville; but, willhout waiting for the arrival of the vessels, he pushed on his men to Foster's Mills, where a skirmish ensued with the enemy, who were repulsed. The mills were burned and Col. Cark left to hold the place, while the main body proceeded onward, the rebels retreating on Ralubow Banks, a very strong and commanding position on the river, twenty miles above Williamston. The fleet learned this news by one of Col. Glark's scouts, and the next day one of our picket boats, which had been sent back to Jamesville, returned to the fleet, bringing the additional micelligence that the army, getting out of provisions, had faifen back to Jamesville. The Commodore sent a despatch to the Collosiel commanding, stating that time was precious; that the fleet would proceed at all havands, and would turn back for nothing until it reached the bluff, and urged that the troops should go forward a moor forward in a short time.

THE FLEET APPEROACHES POPLAR FORM.

THE FLEET APPEROACHES POPLAR FORM.

THE MARINES ON SHORE DITY.

The fact kept on its way for several days more, dragging the river at every step, exploding to repedies, lighting sharpshooters and pressing forward towards Rainbow, until, on the evening of the 20th, we turned a bend in the stream, exposing to view Poplar Point, a high bluif, thoroughly commanding the river.

THE MARINES ON SHORE DITY.

On our left, after doubling the bend, was a large, marshy plain, protected by a dyke, behind which sharpshooters were thought to be lurking. Commodore Macomb ordered the marines of the squadron to land, and, under command of Acting Ensite Development, and surfurshed with them, the relach being drive bekt towards the point. Soon a large body of rebels was formed, belonged to Whitford's rebel regiment

recalled, having throughout the day behaved admirably, retaining the good reputation which that branch of the service has always held.

THE VALLEY CITY ENCOUNTEES A REEST, RAYLEY.

No seems had the Valley City, which continued to be the leading vessel, shown her head around the point than she was saluted by a battery which the rebels had placed there so skilledly as to give them accurate and deady range. She replied with great effect and silenced the battery, but night fell and the Bring ocased. During the night all the vessels were annoyed by the rebels, who would sheak up under cover of the trees fire a volley upon our decks and skeadedle, their retreat being often accelerated by a wholesome dose of gape. During the day the Valley City had suffered healty from the rebel battery. Her pilot, Mr. Lewis, was shot through the head with a Minic bail, and instantly killed. He was buried on the bank, the rebels, with their accustomed benearity, firing on the burying party. A shell exploded in her pilot house, badly wounding her other pilot. A number of her men were also badly hur.

THE FLEXT IS A THE TLACE.

The 21st and 22d were passed in shelling the batteries on lopiar Point, and endeavoring to drag the river for torpedoes, that were thicker than ever. As fast as our boats would leave the ships to commence dragging the ribots would expend the ships to commence dragging the ribots would expended ribes to commence dragging the ribots would expended ribes to commence dragging the ribots would expended ribes the ships, with their agericus damage on her. The other ships, with their need to the words, the trees and bushes were alive, with sharpshooters; batteries were discovered in process of repeatedly, but only to return whenever our fire slack ened in the woods; the trees and bushes were alive, with sharpshooters; batteries were discovered in process of received in the woods; the trees and bushes were alive, with sharpshooters; batteries were discovered in process of received in the woods, the trees and bushes were a

ward without delay. The reply was that the army would advance when transportation permitted. The position of a fleet was untensible for twenty-four hours more; to the ain would have insured the loss of another vessel, to rea, a co was impossible without army co-operation; so, advan 'uctantly, the Commodore gave the order to fall very re. Iamewille, there to await the action of the back to . "fleet fought its way back for severe or eightarmy. The rest of the way was passed in quiet. miles, and the ad not yet been put out of commission. The Otsego he wid and a portion of his crew remaining Commander ara. "eck and living all frezo. Her heavy on her hurricane a coved to the Shannrock and Wyalubattery had been re. witzers still remained on her deck aing, but her brass ho, survey was now held upon her, to defend her crew. At it was impossible to raise either and it being decided that withing that could be removed her or the Bazeley, even nedoes were placed in her was taken away, and two tee, "ing the work of the rebeta hulk and exploded, thus fiable," in the water's edge.

The entire fleet, with the exter, "ite and the United."

Her remains were then act on the the water's edge.

The entire deet, with the except and Mattabessett are now at Jamese.
States steamer Lockwood, to which ordered after the loss of the Bazeley, is having sailed from this place to do so.

States steamer Lockwood, to which ned it last night, ordered after the loss of the Bazeley, he did last night, ordered after the loss of the Bazeley, he having sailed from this place to do so.

The indomitable perseverance of Commits are Macombrand his captains, in pushing on through for fiver filled and his captains, in pushing on through driving with torpodoes and lined with charpshooten for fiver filled in the description of the way are the engine before them, is unsurpassed, even in the builties of the last way for the way are have faitered after lossing two of their vessels; but he is no faitering in Macomb It was not until all loope obtaining land co-operation was exhausted, and until it was demonstrated that without land support he could genouter, that he consented to retire. Throughout the entire expedition he asked his men to encounter no danger that he did not himself share. His exposure of himself to death was constant and unsinching; his coolness and salf-possession never left him, and in him his officers and men beheld an example worthy of Their admiration and emulation.

Thanks of the Officers of the Cisego to Cuptain Wood and Officers of the Trans-

port General Berry. The following card of thanks has been presented tohe officers of the transport General Berry by the officers of the United States steamer Otsego, which was destroyed by a torpedo in the recent movement up Boanoke river, North Carolina :---

Where of United States States of Council, Rossok River, N. C., Dec. 15, 1864.

The officers of this vessel desire to express where tanks to Captain Wood and the other officers of the same transport General Berry for the politoness and kirst consideration they received on board that boat, after their considers, and the same that the consideration they received on board that boat, after their considers, and the politoness and kirst consideration they consider the politoness in which they farmising both officers and men with every facility for obtaining the comforts they so much needed in their desciption condition.

H. N. T. ARNOLD, Lieutenant Communitier.

H. N. T. ARNOLD, Lieutensat Commander.
HENRY D. FOSTER, Ensign and Executive Officer.
J. P. GALLAGHER, Ensign.
THOMAS G. HALE, Ensign.
WM. H. MCLEAN, Ensign.
GEO. C. RAYNOLDS, Assistant Surgeon.
SAMUEL C. MIDLAM, Acting First Assistant Progener.
R. A. ROLFR, Captain's Clerk.
FRANKLIN STEDMAN, Acting Manter's Mate.

Miscellaneous Foreign Mems.

The report of the London, Buenos Ayres and River Plato Bank, to be presented in London, re commends for the half year a dividend of 5 per cent, and a bonus of 10s, per share. £10,000 has been added to the reserve fund, and £1,000 witten off preliminary en penses, learing £775 to be carried forward.

The traffic receipts of railways in the Unk'ed Kingdom amounted for the week ending the 3d of Di scamber, on 11,732 miles, to £008,004, and for the corresp, unling week of last year, on 11,395 miles, to £568,875, sho wing an increase of 357 miles and of £39,159 in the rock Pts.

of last year, on 11,395 miles, to £668,875, she wing an increase of 357 miles and of £39,189 in the roce plat.

Monday, the 28th of Novamber, King George of Greece took the eath required from royalty by the an the constitution which the modern Greecks have from 36 for the guidance of their government. Immediately after the conth the President declared the National Assem bly to be dissolved. The newspapers tell us that the a remony was spiendid, pompous and impressive. These who saw it thought that it was duil and cold, but very shot t.

The revenues of Greece and the Ionian Islanda for the year 1854 are estimated at less than 27,000,300 dt actims. The expenditure of the year 1868, by the bridget of M. Sateropoules, is estimated at 27,150,000. To con or the deficit he counts on an improvement of the revenue and on the collection of arrears.

A return issued by the French customs authy rities shows the value of 1000 francs. The most considerable items of the goods confinanced were.—Steel, of the 1 slue of 102,000 francs; tobacco, 89,000 francs, horse, 63,000 francs, silts, 7,000; and coffee, 2,500 francs. In the experts the only article of consequence was rags, of the value of 7,000 francs. On the arrival of the flaron Osy steenier at Antwerp a short time ago a hay was detected attempting to several French papers a new club, to headed the control of the Year of the value of 10,000 francs.

Ing to smuggie lace of the value of 10,000 france.

According to several French papers a new club, to becalled the "Silent Club," is about to be cerablished in
Paris. The members may eat, drink, read, write, or
smoke, but they must not speak, nor wear creaking
boots, nor play at dominoes, nor "rattle the bones," nor,
in short, make any noise whatever. The floors will be
covered with thick carpets, and the doors will open and
shut without a sound.

The grantifies

shut without a sound.

The quantities of vint ordinairres exported from France in the irist nine months of 1861 was 1,707,777 hectolitres, against 1,414,441 hectolitres in the corresponding period of 1863, and 1,415,319 hectolitres in the corresponding period of 1862. The exports to England were 93,111 hectolitres, against 74,715 hectolitres in the corresponding period of 1863. On the whole, the export of vins ordinairs to England appears to be expanding; but it is of French brandles and pure alcohol that England is the largest consumer, having taken 125,673 hectolitres to the corresponding date of 1863, and 56,550 hectolitres to the corresponding date of 1863.

died in the course of the night.

The Trappists monks have obtained a concession in the province of Mythe, in Cochin China, where they are about to found a large agricultural establishment.

The Pungolo, of Naples, announces that the brigand chief Schiavone, the terror of the Capitanate, has been captured with five of his men.

captured with rive of his men.

The Irish Goart of Chancery Appeal has confirmed the judgment of the Dublin Court of Bankruptey, which at judgment of the Bagnalstown and Wexford Reifroad Company bankrupts. The Lord Chanceller, in giving judgment, said that although in England railway companies could not now be made bankrupts, the law as regards Ireland was different.

could not now be made bankropts, the law as regards Ireland was different.

A memento of the Roman occupation of Britain by the emperors was brought to light recently, during the excavations made near the new Baptist chapet, which occupies a site in the old city ditch, in Northgalo street, Hants. It consists of a large brass coin of the Emperor Antonius Flux. The obverse calabitis a head of that emperor, who was "remarkable for all the virtues that can form a periect stateman, philosopher and king," and the impression a very fine one) is in almost as good a constition as when it left the Roman memeryer's stamp. The reverse is somewhat damaged. Automine, stemamed the Plus, died to the year A. D. 162, so that the piece of money is upwards of sevention handred years and then to to letter in which he complains of a passay set in the memorial of the German Loyal Protection Society, of London, to the effect that, "It is protable that Multer purchased the property of Mr. Briggs found in his possession from one of the munderess, or from a Jew accomplice of theirs." Mr. Extratorf insists that, the German society owes an explanation to the Israeliush community which it has thus assuited.

It is a gurious financial fact that the Papal Thances are

man society over an expansion of the large finances are in a better condition than those of the king dom of Raly. The dividends due in Paris at the end of Lie year have been already forwarded from Rome by the Papal Min tier of Finance, or—which amounts to the same thing in the end—Measrs, Rothschild have consented to supply a new loan to that amount. Consequently Romas consols are quoted at Tile, while Haitan furch are obslere.

Signor Righetti, the fortunate discoverer of the bronze colossal state of Hercalon, is Rome, has cut short the discovered by the proof of the stronger objects at the proof of the stronger by presenting it to Fio None. L will be restored and repaired at the Fope's expense, and will form the point of cutard a faction in the Belvisiere octagon at the Vatican.

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